

Texas Wheel of Fortune Cancellation

by Larry Rausch

This article details those towns using the Wheel of Fortune postmark that I have identified for the states of Texas.

In the November 2005 U.S. Cancellation Club News issue, Arthur Beane announced a project to produce a monograph on the Wheel of Fortune cancels. I've taken up the task to complete this monograph.

Here is where you can help... by providing any additional covers that I have not identified and forward photo scans of these Covers to me at stonywoods840@gmail.com. All state towns and duplicates would also be appreciated.

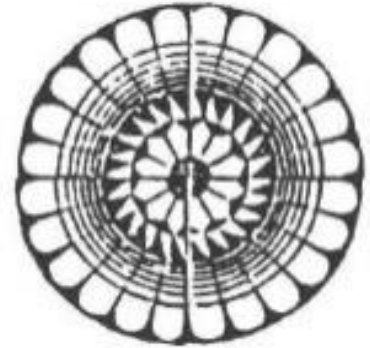


Fig. 1

In 1880 the F.P. Hammond Co. of Aurora, Illinois, introduced the canceller (Fig. 1). Today this fancy rubber canceller is called **Wheel of Fortune (WOF)**. The highly detailed stamper was made possible with the invention of vulcanized rubber. The Peerless Vulcanizer shown on the 1898 cover below (Fig. 2) may have been the type of machine to make the Wheel of Fortune device.

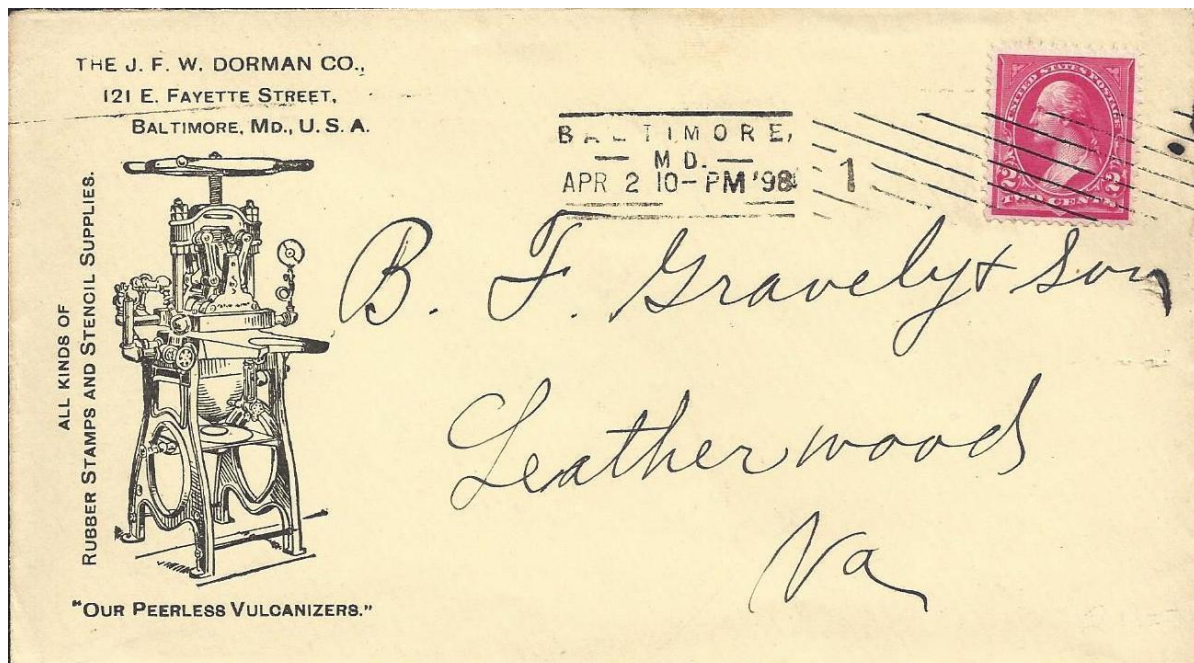


Figure 2. Illustrated advertising cover for the "Peerless Vulcanizers" which made rubber handstamp devices, like the Wheel of Fortune killer, possible.

The first advertisement for the WOF appeared in the January 1881 U.S. Official Postal Guide (Fig. 3). Although this ad depicts postmarks dating in the 1870's, the earliest WOF postmark found to date is February 26, 1880 from New Lisbon, Wisconsin. The earliest from the Texas is dated Jul. 17, 1882 from Granbury, Texas (Fig.4) .

(Note: In the advertisement under "Best Offer", this Cancellor and kit cost \$3.00.)

" WHEEL OF FORTUNE "

No. 529.

POST OFFICE SUPPLIES

ESTABLISHED 1872.

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS

For the most complete line of articles used by P. M.'s and their Clerks.

Engraved Letter Headings,
 " Note Headings,
 Stamp Ribbons (all colors),
 Money Order Daters,
 Post-Office Daters,
 Registered Letter Daters,
 Received Daters,
 Patent Inking Pads,
 P. O. Canceling Ink (*by Express*),
 P. O. Rubber Canceling Corks,
 Twine Cutters,
 Steel and Rubber Stamp Racks,
 Coin Detectors,
 Paper Weights,
 Letter and Package Scales,
 Check Protectors,
 Gem Type Case,


THE BEST OFFER YET.

One RUBBER P. O. Dater and Cancellor, Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in Walnut case with tweezers, and all the single line stamps needed in a Post Office, this style type: **UNCLAIMED**
 By mail, postage paid, on receipt of price, \$3.00.


PROOFS FROM POSTMASTERS.

Your Quarterly Record received, and I like it very much. Jous Cecil, P. M., California, Md.
 The \$3.00 kit ordered by me was duly received this evening. They are all A No. 1 articles, and give entire satisfaction. — JAS. S. HARRIS, P. M., Orangeburg, N. Y.
 The Rubber Stamps, Note and Bill Heads, came to hand all right and meet with favor with those who have examined them, for cheapness, neatness, and durability. — T. W. LITTLE, P. M., Picture Rocks, Pa.
 I have been using one of your Stamps and Pads for the last year and it gives satisfaction. — W. S. BOWEN, P. M., Sheffield, Iowa.
 I received my Note and Letter Heads, Dater, etc., all O. K. Am satisfied with your job. It far exceeds my expectations. Wm. J. Kiser, P. M., Massville, Mo.
 The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it. — CHAS. COUS, P. M., Albion, Idaho.
 Your Box Record received, and is all O. K. — J. W. FROW, P. M., Fort Madison, Iowa.
 The Pads ordered came to-day. I am very much pleased with them. — ED. S. MENARD, P. M., St. Genevieve, Mo.


Illustrated Catalogue of Post Office Supplies sent free to Postmasters only. For samples of Note and Letter Headings send 6 cts. Address
F. P. HAMMOND & CO., Aurora Illinois.



No. 530.



No. 531.



No. 532.




Fig. 3



**Granbury, Texas
Jul. 17, 1882**

Fig. 4

Wheel of Fortune cancels/killers were generally used in conjunction (as a duplex) with town postmarks, as shown (Fig. 5) in Types 1 through 6; however, the WOF is known stand-alone as well (Type 0) as shown in the Pilot Point, Texas cover (Fig. 6).

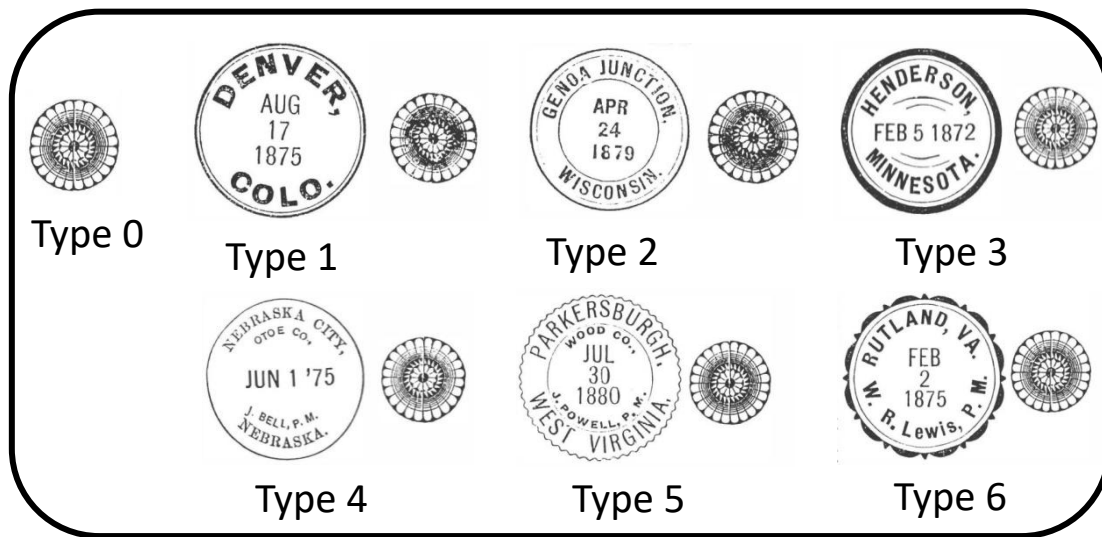


Figure 5

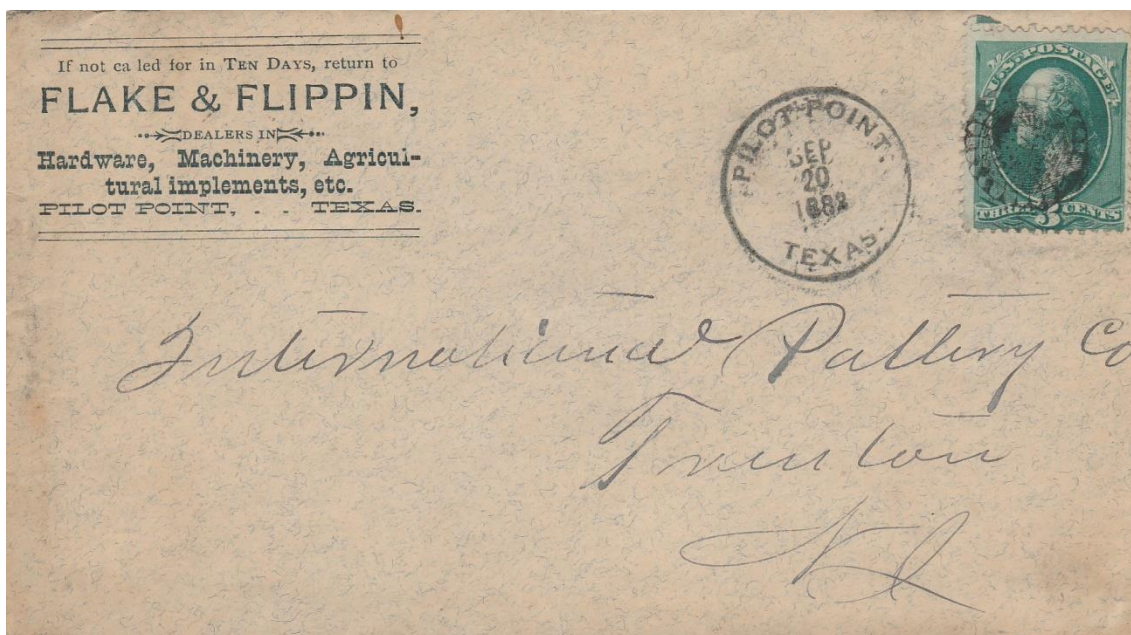


Fig 6 Pilot Point, Texas Sep. 20, 1882

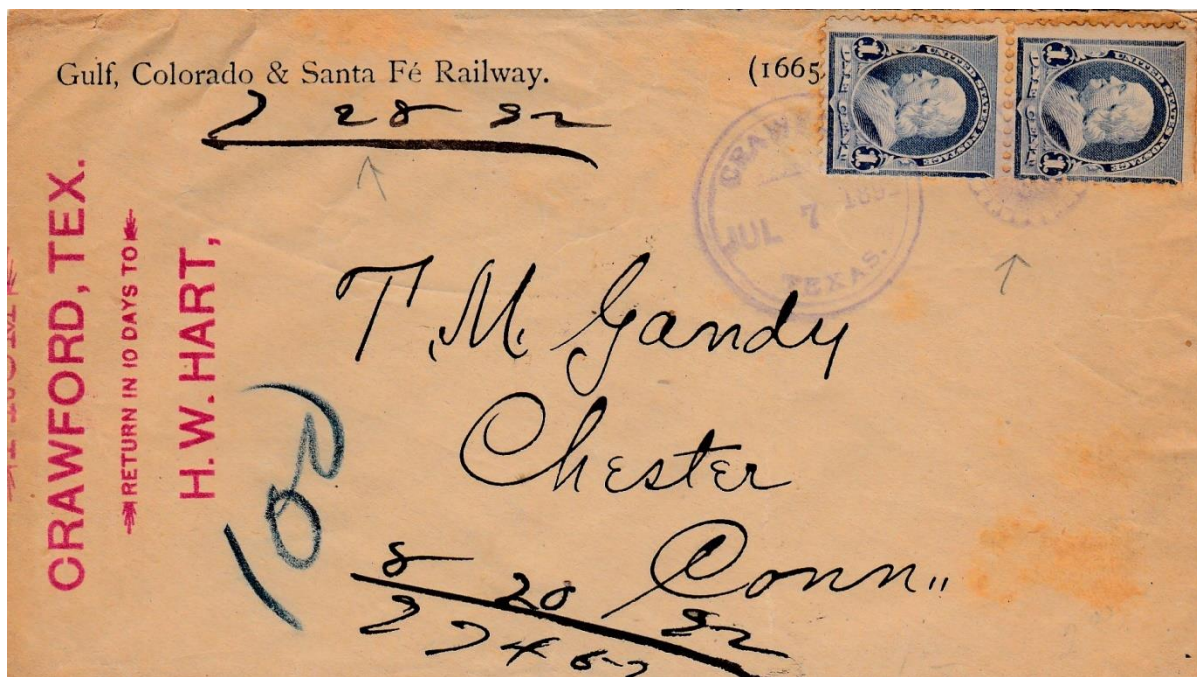
The 1995 book "Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894" by James M. Cole listed a total of 353 US towns using the WOF cancel; for Texas he listed only two towns. Also the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale had 18 Texas WOF covers listed. To date, 25 different Texas towns have been identified (Fig. 7). Some of these Wheel of Fortune Postmark covers follow this article.

Reference:

- 1) Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894 James M Cole
- 2) US Cancellation Club News
- 3) Kelleher Auctions sale #623 January 14, 2011 Arthur Beane

				Usage			Cover
count		Town	Photo	Range	type	County	Date
1	TX	Avinger *				Cass County	
2	TX	Abilene				Taylor and Jones co	
3	TX	Belton **				Bell County	
4	TX	Brownwood **				Brown County	
5	TX	Clifton				Bosque County	
6	TX	Coleman **				Coleman County	
7	TX	Crawford	p	1892-4	3	McLennan County	92-7-7
	TX	Crawford	p	1892-4	3	McLennan County	94-xx-10
	TX	Crawford	p	1892-4	3	McLennan County	xx-11-10
8	TX	Dupree * **		1883		Hays County	83-12-11
9	TX	Felton **				Kent County	
10	TX	Foster **	p	1885	1	Fort Bend County	85-7-27
11	TX	Granbury **	p	1882-3	1	Hood County	82-7-17
	TX	Granbury	p	1882-3	1	Hood County	83-3-14
12	TX	Independence **				Washington County	
13	TX	Kingston **				Hunt County	
14	TX	Ladonia **				Fannin County	
15	TX	Leander **				Williamson County	
16	TX	Liberty Hill **				Williamson County	
17	TX	Llano **				Llano County	
18	Tx	Lufkin	p	1892	3	Angelina	92-xx-3
19	TX	Meridan				Bosque County	
20	TX	Pilot Point **	p	1882-3	1	Denton County	82-9-20
	TX	Pilot Point	p	1882-3	1	Denton County	83-1-10
	TX	Pilot Point	p	1882-3	1	Denton County	83-10-18
21	Tx	Sealy	p	1892	3	Austin County	92-10-3
22	TX	Sherman **				Grayson County	
23	TX	Tenaha **				Shelby County	
24	TX	Van Alstyne **				Grayson County	
25	TX	Winchester **	p	1892	3	Fayette County,	92-2-5
		* Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale					

Figure 7. List of Texas post offices that used Wheel of Fortune cancels.



Crawford, Texas July 7, 1892



Foster, Texas Jul. 7, 1885



Pilot Point, Texas Jan. 10, 1883

Note that the Circular Date Stamp on this cover differs from Fig. 6



Winchester, Texas Apr. 5, 1892